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PAGES 9 TO 16,

# THE JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1896.—SIXTEEN PAGES.



Male or Female, find ready responses from the classified advertising columns of the JOURNAL. "HELP WANTS" are booming; best proof that they hit the mark.

PAGES 9 TO 16,

## OIL SOAKED WASTE FIRES A TENEMENT.

Though Firebugs Have Been Sent to Prison for Life, Others Are Free.

One Lights Two Fires in the Hall of a Great House on the East Side.

Over One Hundred Lives Are Endangered, but a Wakeful Tenant Sees the Blaze.

A TRACK OF BLAZING KEROSENE.

Tailor Donnafsky Was Ill and Had Got Out of Bed to Make Some Tea, or Many Lives Would Have Been Lost—Officials Disheartened.

A trifling illness that caused Tailor Jacob Donnafsky to leave his room at 5 a. m. yesterday saved the tenement house at No. 5 Sheriff street from being burned as the result of an incendiary's devilish act. There were in the house 105 persons. All but Donnafsky were sleeping soundly, and so situated that they would not have known of the blaze until the stairway was a crackling furnace.

That the fire was of incendiary origin is as plain as if a hundred men were willing to testify that they had seen the match applied. It started in a handful of waste, saturated with kerosene and placed in front of the door of Morris Mensch, who is a bookkeeper at No. 35 Lispenard street. Nearby was a match box, the contents of which had been scattered about the floor, and the wick of an oil stove within two feet of the saturated waste. But the most convincing proof was in the fact that shortly after the first fire was discovered another was found smoldering at the opposite end of a hall, and around it, too, was the odor of kerosene.

**A Model Tenement.**  
The tenement is one of the best on the East Side. It has been built but a few years, and the occupants are prosperous. There are twenty-two apartments in the building, including two in the basement. All are arranged conveniently and according to a plan approved by those who take most interest in tenement house life. The apartments rent from \$1.20 to \$15 a month. All are occupied excepting one on the top floor. Those who dwell in the building are regarded as permanent tenants. There are four apartments on each floor, two in front and two in the rear.

The stairway is in the centre of the building. On each floor there are two doors opening into a front and a rear hall. Two apartments open into each hall.

The stairway is a shaft completely enclosed when all the doors opening from the landings to the halls are closed.

**Where the Blaze Was Found.**  
The first fire started yesterday morning in the rear hall, on the fourth floor, in front of the door leading into Manich's home, and directly opposite the door of Donnafsky's apartment. Mr. and Mrs. Mensch have two bright little girls, Ida and Fannie, aged eight and ten years, in their home, and Donnafsky's family consists of himself and wife, two boys of six and eight years, and a baby just two weeks old to-day. These families were in the greatest danger, and but for Donnafsky's discovery they might have been suffocated by the smoke and flames, or, if awakened by the crackling blaze, their exit down the fire escapes with so many children would have been at great peril.

**How It Was Discovered.**  
Donnafsky had left his bed to make a cup of tea. He went through the hallway when he first arose, but saw nothing wrong. He was making the tea when he heard the steps of some one outside. He heard a match lighted, but Donnafsky was not suspicious, for he supposed that some one living on the top floor had struck a match to light a cigar. A few moments later, as he stepped to pour his tea, his eye caught the reflection of a blaze beneath the door. Then he heard the crackling flames, and with a bound he reached the door and opened it. At his feet was the blazing handful of oil-saturated waste, and from it was running a stream of blazing kerosene.

Donnafsky made the big tenement ring with his cry of fire; he broke in the door of Morris Mensch's wife, a savage kick and the two men hurried their families down the stairway to the street. The tenants, aroused by the cry of Donnafsky and of Mensch, who added all the power of his lungs to that of his neighbor, ran in panic to the halls and down the stairway. Of the 105 persons more than half were children, who added to the confusion their crying, and as the stairway is not wide there was a dangerous rush of fleeing tenants.

Donnafsky and Mensch turned their attention to the fire, the extinction of which meant the saving of their homes. The tailor seized his wife's best dress, and Mensch a piece of carpet. They beat the flames and in a few minutes mastered it.

They had just succeeded in doing so when another tenant noticed smoke in front of the door of the stairway platform. This blaze was quickly extinguished and then the frightened inmates of the dwelling, half dressed and trembling with fright, were called from the street and lower hallway.

Patrolmen White and Brown, of the Twelfth Precinct, and the Fire Marshal made an investigation.

Donnafsky said he was sure from the footsteps he had heard outside the door that the incendiary had gone up another flight of stairs after striking the match. He thought there was but one man, and that was all he knew about it.

**AX OPEN SCUTTLE.**

The officers found that the scuttle of the roof had been left open, although Mrs. Daffie Max said she knew it had been closed and locked at midnight.



housekeeper, Mrs. Jacob Harburger, confirmed the statement. The officers, therefore, concluded that the firebug had gone out by the roof, from which he could go to other roofs and eventually find a way to reach the street.

The arrangement of the oil saturated waste, the oil stove wick and the way the matches were scattered about indicated clearly that the firebug had laid his plans carefully. The waste was as close to the door as it could be placed, where the blaze would find fuel; the oil was in a track on the stairway and extended half way down the flight. It could not have been there by accident, for eight-year-old Fannie Mensch had scribbled the floor the day before, and had proudly pointed out the work to her father in the evening. Besides, there was method in the way it was placed, and the fact that around the second fire the floor was saturated with kerosene completed the evidence of incendiaryism.

The occupants of the tenement were a dismal lot yesterday. None had the least suspicion as to who the firebug was or what his object could be. The police were as much in the dark as the tenants.

**Firebugs Who Were Convicted.**  
The officials are becoming disheartened because of their failure to suppress incendiaryism. They had hoped that the vigorous prosecutions conducted by the District Attorney would have a god effect. Many incendiaries have been convicted and sentenced for long terms.

**MORRIS SCHOENHOLZ was sentenced to 48 years in prison.**  
**MAX GRAUER was given 30 years.**  
**IDA LIEBERMAN, 6 years and 4 months.**  
**SARAH SILBERMEISTER, 25 years.**  
**LOUIS GORDON, 6 years and 10 months.**  
**LOUIS ROTHMAN, 30 years.**

When asked what he thought could now be done to prevent incendiaryism, Mason A. Stone, the president of the Greenleaf Fire Insurance Company, No. 121 Broadway, said:

"There should be more investigation of every suspicious fire. The Fire Marshal's office does all it can with its present force, but the equipment should be extended. The fire insurance companies use all the care they possibly can, but incendiaryism is as common on the East Side that the rates have been put up to practically include the risk of incendiary fires."

"Many companies including our own will not accept risks on furniture in East Side tenements and use extraordinary precaution in the insurance of buildings. The exemplary sentences given recently convicted firebugs has had a good effect, but more convictions are needed to sufficiently frighten professional firebugs."

**More Convictions Needed.**

George G. Howe, vice-president of the Niagara Insurance Company, said:

"The recent conviction of firebugs has undoubtedly had a good influence, but it would have been far more effective if the sentence had not been long delayed from the time the crime was committed. In order to impress their evil deeds, those arrested, whose guilt is clear, should be convicted and punished as quickly as possible."

"The fire insurance companies are now investigating every applicant for insurance on the East Side as thoroughly as do life insurance companies, but on account of the cosmopolitan nature of the population it is impossible to discover where there is and where there is not danger of incendiaryism. The remedy lies in more thorough official investigation where there is any suspicion."

**A Fire Chief's View.**  
Fire Battalion Chief Burns, who is in charge of the district including No. 5 Sheriff street, said:

"Incendiary fires are diminishing in number and they would soon become very rare if the fire insurance companies would use greater caution in accepting risks. The city officials make investigations as thoroughly as possible and the underwriters should co-operate with them. The recent sentencing of firebugs has had a good effect, but a few more exemplary cases are needed."

**AX OPEN SCUTTLE.**

The officers found that the scuttle of the roof had been left open, although Mrs. Daffie Max said she knew it had been closed and locked at midnight.

## SOCIETY GIRL ELOPES WITH A MUSICIAN.

Miss Suydam, of Bloomfield, N. J., Marries a Widower in Spite of Her Parents.

He Is Old Enough to Be Her Father, and She Is Now Stepmother to Grown-Up Children.

IT IS PURELY A RUNAWAY MATCH.

When the Affair Was Discovered There Was Trouble, but the Lovers Sought a Willing Minister in an Adjacent Town.

The people of Bloomfield, N. J., were busy yesterday discussing the elopement and marriage of Miss Lida H. Suydam, the young daughter of John P. Suydam, a wealthy resident of Upper Broad street. She ran away with William A. Brown, a widower, who lived next door to the Suydams.

Brown is a musician and widely known. The couple have been keeping company for some time unknown to the parents of the girl, but when this fact leaked out there was trouble as far as the girl's parents were concerned, not so much on account of



No. 5 Sheriff Street and the Marks of a Firebug's Attempt to Burn It.

Tenant Donnafsky was ill during Thursday night and rose to make some tea. He heard steps in the hall and the striking of a match. Later he saw flames, ran into the hall and found burning oil-soaked waste before his door. His screams aroused 105 persons who were sleeping in the tenement, and while they escaped he and a neighbor beat out the fire in the burning waste, a train of flaming kerosene that led to the stairway, and another fire in more waste found in another part of the hall.

her falling in love, but for the reason that he is a widower with two children and is old enough to be her father.

The appeals of the parents had no weight with the daughter, who continued to meet the widower almost nightly. Mrs. Suydam was very much opposed to the match, and told Lida that the fact of her becoming a stepmother so young ought to be enough to break it off. Besides all this, the Suydams and Brown have not been on good terms for many months because of a dispute over a fence.

The girl and her lover finally decided to get married, and have an end to the argument. Wednesday night the couple arranged to have the ceremony performed the following day.

Shortly before noon Lida left her home and went to Watessing, about one mile distant, with Brown. There they were married by the Rev. W. J. Keatley, pastor of the Methodist church. They left immediately for Niagara Falls.

The fact of the marriage soon leaked out and reached the ears of the girl's parents, who at first were not inclined to believe it, but a messenger was at once sent to the minister, who confirmed the report.

Although the parents of the girl were at first much chagrined at the wedding, they have become reconciled, and the bride and groom will receive the parental blessing when they return to Bloomfield. The bride is prominent in social circles and a member of the old First Presbyterian Church.

## THE OLD TOMBS DOOMED.

Costly Prison with All Modern Improvements to Be Erected on Its Site.

Under the provisions of the Andrews bill, which was approved by the Mayor yesterday, the pile of Egyptian architecture in Centre street known as the Tombs prison is to be pulled down. The measure appropriates \$800,000 for this purpose and for building a wing to the penitentiary on Blackwell's Island.

Commissioner of Correction Robert J. Wright, who appeared in favor of the bill, said it was proposed to erect an eight-story brick and stone building on the Tombs site, with 500 cells and all the latest prison improvements.

The work is to be approved by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and to be done by contract. The exterior of the new building will be similar to the new Criminal

## WORKING WOMEN PROTECTED BY LAW.

Andrews Mercantile Bill Signed by the Governor Is a Boon to Them.

Under Its Provisions Hours Must Be Provided in Business Hours and Time for Meals Granted.

SIXTY HOURS A WEEK'S WORK.

Day's Work Shall Not Be Over Ten Hours—The Measure Also Provides for Employment and Registration of Minors.

Albany, April 24.—Governor Morton has signed Assemblyman H. T. Andrews's bill regulating the employment of women and children in mercantile establishments. This bill was prepared by the Reinhard Sweatshop Investigating Committee. A measure similar to this has been defeated in the Legislature each session for the past half dozen years until this year, when the advocates of the bill and those whom it affects got together and the Andrews compromise bill which was placed upon the statute books to-day is the result.

The bill, which is known as the Andrews

## NEARLY STRANGLED HIS PLAYMATE.

Young Brady Dragged Sarah Binimovitz by the Neck at the End of a Rope.

She Was Choking and Unable to Speak When Another Boy Pluckily Went to Her Rescue.

THROAT BRUISED AND DISCOLORED.

Brady Said He Was Playing Horse and Did Not Mean to Hurt the Child. Summoned to Appear Before Justice Tighe.

According to the story told yesterday to Justice Tighe, in the Butler Street Police Court, Brooklyn, by Harris Binimovitz, his relatives and friends, seven-year-old John Brady has become lamed with the practices of Red Wolf, the Pirate, as related in the dime novels. The father of the accused boy, however, is to have his hour in court this morning, and he is prepared to prove that young Johnny is merely a high-spirited and harmless youngster, fond of playing boyish pranks.

Binimovitz, who is the proprietor of a clothing manufactory in the rear of No. 135 Columbia street, told the Justice that young Brady had attempted to choke his seven-year-old daughter, Sarah, by throwing a rope around her neck and then dragging her along the street for several minutes, until she was rescued by Philip A. Abrahamson, a nine-year-old schoolmate, who heard her girl playmate calling loudly for help. The Justice issued a summons, and young Brady will be taken to court in answer to it by his parents.

Little Sarah shows marks of very severe usage. Her neck, for a stretch of four inches under her right jaw, is badly bruised, the skin having been torn off by the abrasions of the rope which was thrown over her head by the Brady boy, while she was sitting on the sidewalk in front of No. 135 Columbia street, playing a game of jackstones with a girl about a year younger than herself. She attends Public School No. 13, on Degraw street, and about two hours after she returned from the afternoon session on Thursday, she was sent out to play. Young Brady, who is a pupil of Public School No. 29, on Columbia street, had just returned from school, where he had been detained after the closing hour as a punishment for some slight infraction of the rules. He carried on his arm a piece of clothes line, about half a dozen feet in length, an end of which was made into a running noose.

Slipping up behind little Sarah, he threw the rope over her head, and when he saw that it lay around her neck loosely, he turned and started to run away, holding the rope firmly. As quick as the rope became taut the noose tightened, and the little girl was almost suffocated. She was too frightened to grasp the rope and thus loosen the tension, and it encircled her throat so tightly that she could not cry out for aid. In a few moments she would probably have been strangled.

A sturdy little fellow, Philip Abrahamson, by name, who now and then carries Sarah's books to and from the school, stepped from a doorway some forty feet away and, noticing that the girl was being dragged along the sidewalk and that another little girl was vainly crying for help, rushed bravely forward to her rescue. In a moment he had released her from the cruel, choking rope, but even then she could neither cry nor talk.

She was taken to the home of her parents in the tenement house in front of her father's factory, and there she was revived after much effort on the part of her mother and sisters. Young Brady ran to the top floor of No. 147 Columbia street, where his parents reside, and was soon followed by the father of Sarah and a score or more of his employees and friends.

The boy's father, who is known around the neighborhood as "Bluff Billy" Brady, who has a good word for everybody and who, besides having been a policeman on the old metropolitan force thirty years ago, was the Tammany Hall candidate for Assemblyman in the Fourteenth District the same year that John Kelly ran against Lucius Robinson for Governor, quieted the angry crowd, and they dispersed on his assurance that the boy would be severely punished if it was shown that he had done wrong.

Yesterday afternoon the little girl, who is a pretty child, with black hair and black eyes, had recovered from the shock of her painful experience. Her neck was swathed



PHILIP ABRAHAMSON

JOHN BRADY

SARAH BINIMOVITZ

YOUNG JOHN BRADY, HIS LITTLE VICTIM AND HER PLUCKY RESCUER.

The boy threw a rope over Sarah Binimovitz's head and dragged her along the sidewalk, nearly choking her. She was unable to cry out, but little Philip Abrahamson, who saw her helplessness, bravely went to her rescue. Brady said he was only playing horse. Police Justice Tighe, of Brooklyn, will investigate the case.

in bandages, and it will be several weeks before the marks made by the rope disappear entirely. "Was I afraid?" she said: "Yes, I was awfully afraid, and I couldn't make any noise so as to call somebody. It hurts me now to talk. Johnny Brady and I had never quarrelled, and I don't know why he put that rope around my neck."

The Brady boy is a mainly little fellow, with an open face and frank manner, quite free from viciousness. "I wanted to play horse with her and I just threw the rope around her neck," is his version of the matter. "When she wouldn't move I thought I would pull her along, and I did. My papa says the Judge will send me to prison for four thousand years, and I won't have anything to eat if I do it again, and I guess I won't."

## UNKNOWN INSANE WOMAN.

Picked Up on Staten Island, She Is Unable to Tell Her Name or Where She Lives.

An unknown insane woman is being held on Staten Island until information as to her relatives or friends can be obtained. She was picked up by Officer Roe on Broadway, Staten Island, at midnight Wednesday. Her actions, which first suggested drunkenness, soon were found to be those of a crazy woman, and she was taken to Police Headquarters. There an attempt to question her was made, but she could speak no English.

She is about thirty years old, of a strong Hebrew cast of features, with prominent nose, high cheek bones, flashing black eyes, dark brown hair, carefully combed back from a broad, low forehead. Her gown is



STATEN ISLAND'S INSANE WOMAN

of black crepon, and she wears a shirt waist of blue and white stripes. The only jewelry she wears is an imitation diamond brooch and a plain gold wedding ring.

When questioned about her home she murmured abstractedly in German: "Live at No. 309 Grand street, New York."

"And your name?"

"Name—name—oh, yes, my name Anna Dorn—Anna Dorn."

Then all intelligence seemed to pass away. Later in the afternoon she murmured "Anna Dorn Blumenstein," and this the officers believe to be her name. No. 309 Grand street is the tidily dry goods store. About five hundred girls are employed there, and when the news reached Manager W. A. Moore he immediately made a canvass to see if it could be accounted for. There were none missing, and an assistant, who has been in the store for ten years, was sent to Staten Island to see if the woman had ever been employed there. He returned with the information that he had never seen her before.

"This would be no policy to name the trades just now."

"The eight-hour day is bound to come. There can be no industrial peace until it does come. In many trades the hours of labor have been ten or eleven a day. In many of these hours will be cut down to nine. The eight-hour day will not be used for in these trades. The reduction in the hours of labor should be due to several causes. The great advance in machinery, the discovery and application of new forces in industry, the improvements in the tools of labor, the divisions and subdivisions in various departments of labor, all of which tend to increase the productivity of the laborer."

"As to whether there will be any strikes in New York, that is something that cannot be answered, because of certain reasons. Some of the trades will make the demand, and may strike if it is not granted. It would not be policy to name the trades just now."

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## GOMPERS PREDICTS AN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

No Industrial Peace Assured, He Says, Until It Comes.

Expects Half a Million Men to Be Working One Hour a Day Less After May 1.

NO GREAT STRIKES CONTEMPLATED.

Conferences, He Believes, Will Bring About an Amicable Understanding Between Employers and Their Workmen.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 24.—Before he left for Chicago this morning, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was interviewed regarding a statement attributed to him that half a million men will strike for eight hours on May 1. He said: "I never stated that half a million men will strike. What I did say was that half a million men will be working one hour per day less after May 1 than at present. Most of them will get the eight-hour day without striking for it. I do not want to predict that there will or will not be strikes. Once movements of this kind are started, there is no telling where they will end. I do not know at the present time that any great strikes are contemplated or will be necessary. The shorter day will be granted generally by employers and will come about through conferences."

**MAY BE SOME STRIKES.**  
"Will you specify what strikes will get it and where the conferences are being held?" Mr. Gompers was asked.

"You can learn that better by applying to the national heads of the different trades. The Bricklayers and Stone Masons' International Union, however," he continued, "will make the demand in all places where the men are now working more than eight hours. The horsehoes, I have been told, will ask for shorter hours all over the country, including Pittsburg. The carpenters and bridge and structural workers will do the same in every city where they think they can get it."

"In some large cities this is not an opportune time for some trades, especially in the building line, to strike. While the carpenters may strike in some cities, the bridge workers and horsehoes will demand eight hours in other places. So far as I can see, there will be no general suspension."

"Will you name